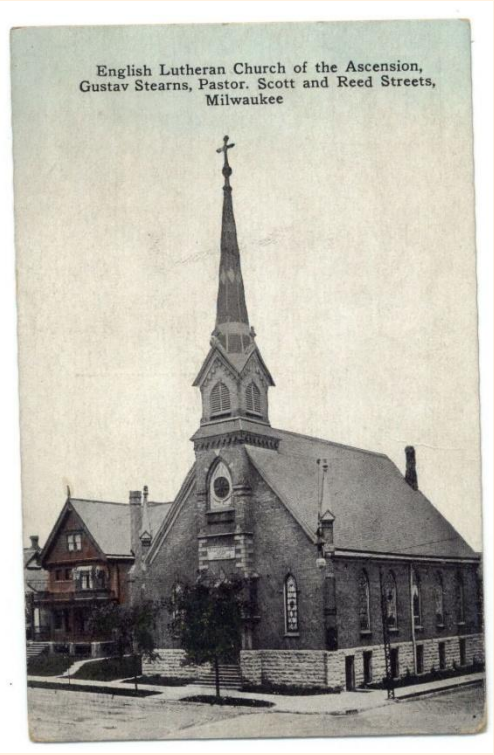
Ascension Lutheran Church

The Joy of Being Successors



We do not stand at the beginning of the story. For 175 years, disciples before us tended this place—building walls, raising children in the faith, opening doors to neighbors, and trusting that God would keep gathering a people here. Their faithfulness is the ground on which we stand. Now, we are the ones who get to carry the story forward.

A successor inherits more than a building, we inherit a vocation: to keep the house of welcome open, to steward and build our resources so that ministry can flourish beyond any single year's budget, and to hand on a campus and a community ready for the next 175 years. The joy of being successors is the quiet privilege of leaving more life than we found.

God of every generation,

You gathered immigrant families in a carpenter's shop and have never stopped gathering. You placed in their hands a trust larger than themselves: a place of worship, a table of hospitality, a mission that would outlive them. We stand in that same line with gratitude.

Give us the courage and the gladness of true successors. Help us receive what has been entrusted to us as a gift and a calling. Give us wisdom to renew this campus so that partners may keep serving the south side every day of the week. Give us generosity to strengthen the stewardship our of resources, so that the work of hospitality, partnership, and discipleship may continue for generations still to come.

Free us from the fear that says our gifts are too small to matter. Teach us that every pledge, every legacy intention, every act of care for this shared home is how we join the long story of your faithfulness here. Make us cheerful stewards of what we have received and hopeful builders of what we will leave behind.

And when the day comes that we ourselves become the ancestors, may those who follow find in this place a house still open, a people still gathered, and a mission still growing—because we carried the story forward in love.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.





Step 4: Have Faith and Assume Sufficiency, Not Scarcity

Many fear they will not have enough to live on. This is called The Scarcity Assumption. It is human and natural, but it is not Christian.

For our faith teaches us that God will provide sufficiently for all our needs if we trust in God's promises. This is so even when we give away the largest portion or amount that we have ever given!

So, we must have faith that a good and gracious God will continue to provide for us in the future as God has in the past, and as God has promised to do!

We are to trust God as did Abraham of old and so many others throughout the pages of the Bible. These examples were written for our instruction and for our assurance. We must learn to give in faith with the assumption of sufficiency, not scarcity. **God will provide because God cares for us.**

Keep Up to Date and Learn More About ALC 175:

"Standing in this long line of pastors, I feel joy more than weight. The privilege of the successor is not inventing the story but carrying it forward with gratitude."

— Pastor Aida Muñiz